

Why Screen and Evaluate Preschool Children?

When developmental learning challenges are identified at a young age, early intervention and therapies can significantly improve the child's overall development and readiness for kindergarten.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement in the special education process is critical to your child's success. You're the best advocate for your child.

- Ask the school for a copy of the *Procedural Safeguards Notice*. This will explain your special education rights and responsibilities.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions. Learn about the evaluation process.
- Be involved in your child's evaluation. As a member of the team, you will be asked to contribute to the process.
- Request copies of important paperwork including a copy of the final report. Keep these documents in a safe place.
- Keep a log of phone calls. Use your calendar to keep track of testing dates and meetings.
- Contact a parent group for guidance. It helps to talk to other parents whose children have been evaluated for special education services.

[Raising Special Kids \(RSK\) Raising Special Kids – Help and Hope for Families](http://raisingspecialkids.org)
(raisingspecialkids.org)



EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

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CHILD FIND



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What is Child Find?

Child Find is a component of the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that requires states to *locate, identify, and evaluate* all children with disabilities, aged birth through 21, who are in need of early intervention or special education services.

Child Find services are available to all residents living within the TUSD attendance area. Screenings and evaluations are available to determine if a child has a disability and needs special education services.

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Who is responsible for local Child Find activities?

Public schools and the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) are responsible for 'finding' eligible children.



Babies 0-2 years 10½ months

Contact AzEIP for children aged birth until 2 years 10½ months of age if your child is showing difficulties with:

- Speaking/Understanding
- Hearing
- Walking/Running
- Self Help Skills
- Behavior/Social Skills
- Manipulating Small Objects/Drawing

An AzEIP specialist will talk with you about your concerns. Visit the [Arizona Early Intervention Program website](https://des.az.gov/azeip) (des.az.gov/azeip) or call 1-888-592-0140 for more information.



Children 2 years 10½ months-5 years (not eligible for kindergarten)

Contact the TUSD Child Find office via email at TUSDChildFind@tusd1.org or call 520-232-7034 if you are concerned about your child's development or performance in the areas that affect development and learning in school:

- Vision & Hearing
- Motor control or coordination
- Behavior or social skills
- Speech or language skills
- Thinking or performing tasks



School Age Children K-12

For school-age children (Kindergarten-12th grade), please call your neighborhood public elementary, middle, or high school and ask to speak with the principal or special education department about your concerns.

What is early intervention (ages 0-3)?

Early intervention is professionals working in partnership with parents and families of children with special needs, to support a child's growth, development, and learning. Early intervention is planned around each child and family's unique daily routines and family life. An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed to provide supports and services.

What is preschool special education and school aged special education (ages 3-21)?

It is specially designed instruction and related services provided to students with disabilities, preschool through high school. An Individual Education Program (IEP) is developed based on their unique strengths and needs. Related services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or assistive technology might also be provided. Eligible students are entitled to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

Evaluation

If an evaluation is needed, you will be a part of the evaluation team because you can give important information about your child's developmental and medical history. The team will discuss the results of the evaluation, and you will be involved in the decision-making process to determine if your child is eligible for early intervention or special education services.